FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 46 *8 March 1978*

EGYPT

Foreign Relations Committee Holds Closed Meeting	D	1	1/A6
As-Sadat Invites Yugoslav President Tito To Visit	D	1	1/A6
Minister of War Receives Somali Foreign Minister	D	1	1/A6
Egypt Denies Desire To Join Deterrent Forces in Lebanon	D	2	1/A7
Foreign Ministry Condemns Rhodesian Attack on Zambia	D	2	1/A7
As-Sadat Inspects Food Security, Other Projects in Al-Jizah	D	2	1/A7
Stresses Importance of Nile	D	3	1/A8
As-Sadat Congratulates Hua Kuo-feng on Reelection	D	3	1/A8
AL-AHRAM To Publish Excerpt From As-Sadat Autobiography	D	4	1/A9
Briefs: Floating Dock Ordered	D	4	1/A9

JORDAN

King Husayn Makes Comments to Austrian Newsmen	F	1	1/A10
Press Comments	F	3	1/A12
Begin's Visit to Washington Seen as Last Chance	F	4	1/A13
'Revolutionary Party' Speaks of Arrests in Jordan	F	5	1/A14

LEBANON

Front Debates Extension of Deterrent Force Mandate [Voice of Lebanon]	G	1	1/B1
Sarkis, Deterrent Forces Commander Discuss Security	G	2	1/B2
Increased Israeli Concentrations on Border Reported	G	2	1/B2
Syrian Defense Minister Inspects Deterrent Forces	G	2	1/B2

SYRIA

Ba'th Party Statement on Revolution Anniversary	H	1	1/B3
Communique on SED Central Committee Delegation's Visit	H	3	1/B5
Planning Minister Talks With Soviet Economic Delegation	H	7	1/B9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Bouteflika Lauds African Nonalinement, Hits France [EL MOUDJAHID 1 Mar 78]	I	1	1/B10
West Bank Palestinian Delegation Arrives [ASH-SHA'B 2 Mar 78]	I	2	1/B11

LIBYA

Secretary of Industry Begins Visit to Belgium I 2 1/B11
Tunisian Foreign Minister Delivers Message I 2 1/B11

MOROCCO

Officials Accuse Algeria in Cable to Waldheim I 3 1/B12

SUDAN

Minister Makes Statement on Soviet Arms Suspension I 3 1/B12

TUNISIA

Nouira Interviewed on Development Program [L'ACTION 1 Mar 78] I 4 1/B13

WESTERN SAHARA

Forces Claim New Victories Against Mauritanians I 7 1/C2

ISRAEL

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Meets With Dayan N 1 1/C3
Atherton Meets With Begin N 1 1/C3
Atherton Leaves for Geneva N 1 1/C3
Begin, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Resolution 242 [HA'AREZ 7 Mar 78] N 1 1/C3
Begin Comments on Order in Government, Peace Process N 2 1/C4
Likud Backs Begin [POST 8 Mar 78] N 2 1/C4
Begin Rejects Likud Request [DAVAR 7 Mar 78] N 3 1/C5
Begin Said To Order Restraint Regarding Bedouins [POST 8 Mar 78] N 4 1/C6
As-Sadat Makes New Proposal to Israel on West Bank [MA'ARIV 7 Mar 78] N 4 1/C6
Dayan Comments on Forthcoming Trip to Washington [DAVAR 7 Mar 78] N 5 1/C7
Reservists Protest Begin Government's Policy [HA'AREZ 7 Mar 78] N 6 1/C8
Begin's Office Comments N 6 1/C8
Weizman Criticizes Government Composition, Disarray N 7 1/C9
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Mar 78]
Wants Alinement in Cabinet ['AL HAMISHMAR 8 Mar 78] N 7 1/C9
Comments on Settlements N 7 1/C9
Minister Sharon Criticizes Shilo Settlers N 8 1/C10
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Mar 78]

IRAN

Bahraini Defense Minister Arrives, Received by Shah R 1 1/C11
Meets With Amuzegar R 1 1/C11
Briefs: Diplomatic Relations With Barbados R 1 1/C11

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

DPRK Vice President Arrives in Dacca 8 Mar S 1 1/C12
PRC Friendship Delegation Ends Visit 7 Mar S 1 1/C12

INDIA

[illegible], India Sign Cooperation Protocol in Delhi	S 1	1/C12
India, Bangladesh Reach Agreement on 1977 Trade	S 2	1/C13
Iranian Aid Offered; Concorde Flights Banned	S 3	1/C14
Maharashtra Congress To Talk With Congress-I Group	S 3	1/C14
Agree To Unite	S 3	1/C14
To Form Government	S 4	1/B1

NEPAL

DPRK Vice President Kang Speaks at Banquet	S 4	1/B1
Bista Speech	S 6	1/D3
India, Nepal Initial Treaties on Transit Trade	S 7	1/D4
Bangladesh Adviser on Water Resources Ends Visit	S 8	1/D5

PAKISTAN

Haq Briefs Leaders on Agricultural, Oil Production	S 5	1/D5

MAR 16 1978

I Lan 858-8-6 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-46

FBIS-MEA-78-46
Wednesday
8 March 1978
Vol V No 46

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HOLDS CLOSED MEETING

NC071650Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--The People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee held a closed meeting today under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker and Committee Chairman Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for People's Assembly Affairs Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman, who was there on behalf of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is indisposed and could not attend.

Following the meeting, Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi said that the committee examined the results of the efforts of U.S. envoy Alfred Atherton to reach a declaration of principles for a peace settlement in the Middle East. The committee discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa and the resolutions of the OAU Council, which met recently in Tripoli. The committee also reviewed the situation in bilateral relations between Egypt and Cyprus following the Larnaca airport incident.

Dr al-'Utayfi said that the committee members denounced Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 and considered such an interpretation to be one of the obstacles the Israeli side is raising to hinder the peace efforts. The committee members also expressed their strong support for the achievement of the Palestinian's right to self-determination as a fundamental part in any political settlement. They affirmed that the Larnaca airport incident will not affect Egypt's firm policy toward supporting the Palestinian people.

Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi added that Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman noted that Egypt considers the severance of diplomatic relations with Cyprus a sufficient step at present, without making any change in its declared policy toward the Cyprus question. 'Uthman also affirmed that Egypt adheres to the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. The committee decided to hold another meeting next week to hear the remarks by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on these subjects in order to enable the committee to adopt its recommendations in this respect.

AS-SADAT INVITES YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO TO VISIT

NC080638Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0637 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM states today that President Anwar as-Sadat has sent an invitation to Yugoslav President Tito to visit Egypt at a time of his choosing. Earlier, President as-Sadat sent a message to the Yugoslav president explaining developments in the Middle East situation on the occasion of President Tito's trip to the United States. AL-AHRAM says President as-Sadat pointed out in his message that President Tito is one of the world leaders who has been following the Middle East issue and supporting the Arab cause and that he is fully informed about developments concerning the issue.

MINISTER OF WAR RECEIVES SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER

NC071841Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1816 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--The minister of war and war production, Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, this afternoon received in his office Abdurahman Jama Barre, the Somali foreign minister, who is currently in Cairo. The meeting was attended by the Somali ambassador in Cairo, Abdulrahim Abby Farah.

EGYPT DENIES DESIRE TO JOIN DETERRENT FORCES IN LEBANON

NC0713402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 7 March--The press office of the Egyptian Embassy in Beirut has denied reports that Egypt wants to join the Arab deterrent forces. A statement issued today says that these reports are unfounded and do not serve the peace process in Lebanon. Following is the text of the statement:

Some newspapers recently reported that Egypt wants to join the Arab deterrent forces with a contingent equal in size to that of Syria. These reports do not serve the peace process in Lebanon, and the press office of the Egyptian Embassy affirms that such reports are untrue and unfounded. The Egyptian Government's only desire is to see Lebanon overcome its crisis, to see stability and security prevail in the country and to see the fraternal Lebanese people achieve their aspirations of glory and prosperity.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS RHODESIAN ATTACK ON ZAMBIA

NC0719417 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1902 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] An official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement: The Arab Republic of Egypt has received with extreme concern the report on the treacherous ground and air attack which was launched by the rebellious racist regime in Rhodesia today against the fraternal Republic of Zambia.

While the Arab Republic of Egypt strongly condemns this aggression, which is directed against a fraternal African people and an African front line state, it considers this attack a flagrant challenge to the African Continent that exposes the true intentions of the racist regime of Ian Smith to frustrate the efforts for a just and peaceful settlement and African national majority rule in Zimbabwe, which the international community is working to achieve.

While also condemning the attempts of the racist regime in Salisbury to maintain its racist domination over the national majority through the so-called internal solution, the Arab Republic of Egypt reaffirms its solidarity with the other African fraternal states in support of and in backing the struggle of Zimbabwe under the leadership of the National Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe, in accordance with the resolutions of the OAU and the United Nations.

The Arab Republic of Egypt will also continue to shoulder its responsibility for supporting and assisting the African frontline states in southern Africa to confront the fierce imperialist-racist onslaught launched by the racist regimes in Salisbury and Pretoria.

At the instruction of the president, the Foreign Ministry is following the situation and is making the necessary contacts in this respect to confront the dangerous situation resulting from Ian Smith's attack on Zambia.

AS-SADAT INSPECTS FOOD SECURITY, OTHER PROJECTS IN AL-JIZAH

NC0713377 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today began his tour of the Upper Egypt governorates with a visit to Al-Jizah Governorate, where he inspected food security, land reclamation, animal husbandry, and poultry farming projects in the (Rammaja al-Kubra) and (At-Tathani) areas.

Crowds accorded the president a splendid welcome upon his arrival. President as-Sadat then distributed title deeds for newly reclaimed lands.

Al-Jizah Governor Muhammad 'Abd al-Akhir has stated that the plans for the reclamation of the desert in the Al-Jizah Governorate will cover some 86,000 feddans in the first stage. He said that implementation of a number of vital animal husbandry and poultry projects has begun to provide meat for the citizens within the framework of the food security projects.

Irrigation Minister Eng 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata then spoke about Egypt's agricultural expansion projects in an area estimated at 1.9 million feddans. This area will be added to the land already under cultivation in Egypt and will meet all the needs of the citizens. President as-Sadat then distributed the deeds to the cooperative society, which will be responsible for reclaiming these lands.

The President then made a field tour, during which he inspected the projects carried out by the Al-Jizah Governorate in the (Ad-Dashami) area. The president was accompanied on this tour by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and the ministers.

Stresses Importance of Nile

NC071713Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--In a statement to newsmen following his visit to Al-Jizah Governorate today, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat announced that Egypt's future is here in this reclaimed land. He said we have the land, the water and the manpower. Why do we not invade the desert, establish new communities and increase production? Here, as I have told you, lies Egypt's future.

Asked whether this tour is a period of rest from the peace process, President as-Sadat said: Why should we consider it a period of rest? My responsibilities are not confined to the peace process but extend to providing food and food security to my people and preparing everything for future generations.

In answer to another question, President as-Sadat said: Water is life to us, the peasants, and life is a sacred thing. I was very happy indeed when I saw water in the middle of the desert here. I know that there is water in many spots in our desert and we will tap it.

Asked what the Nile means to him as one who is attached to this land historically, personally and sentimentally, President as-Sadat said with great simplicity: Life. We are not accustomed to rainfall here in our country. Rain falls only sparingly on the northern coast. However, the Nile gives us everything. For this reason, the Nile is sacred to us. It is our life.

AS-SADAT CONGRATULATES HUA KUO-FENG ON REELECTION

NC071844Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following cable of congratulations to Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, on his reelection as prime minister.

Mr Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and prime minister:

On the occasion of the Chinese National People's Congress decision reelecting you prime minister, it pleases me to express to you on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt the most heartfelt congratulations on this precious confidence shown in you by the great people of China.

On this occasion it pleases me to commend the efforts of your excellency and your great concern to fulfill the hopes of your people for further progress and prosperity.

While affirming our appreciation and great gratitude for your support of the efforts we are making to establish security and a just and permanent peace in the Middle East, I hope that the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two friendly countries will be further consolidated.

With best wishes for the strength and progress of the friendly Chinese people, and to your excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes for good health and happiness.

AL-AHRAM TO PUBLISH EXCERPT FROM AS-SADAT AUTOBIOGRAPHY

NC0808 52Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--This Friday, the newspaper AL-AHRAM will begin publication of a complete chapter [fasl]--in five series [halaqat]--from President Anwar as-Sadat's autobiography entitled "In Search of Identity--The Story of My Life."

In the autobiography the President deals with the events that have taken place since his birth in 1918. The autobiography is scheduled to be published at the end of this month in 14 languages.

In the chapter that AL-AHRAM will publish the day after tomorrow, the president reviews the events that took place from June 1956, when Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir was elected president, up to 10 June 1967. This chapter will deal with one of the most important periods in Egyptian history, including the exciting events which took place in those 10 years: the Suez war, unification with and secession from Syria, the power struggle between 'Abd an-Nasir and [former Armed Forces Commander in Chief] 'Abd al-Hakin 'Amir and the catastrophe of defeat.

BRIEFS

FLOATING DOCK ORDERED--Suez Canal Authority Chief Eng Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur this morning signed a contract with a German company for importing and setting up a 10,000-ton floating dock costing 7.5 million pounds. The dock will be imported this year. It will be 185 meters long and will accommodate large ships. [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 78 NC]

KING HUSAYN MAKES COMMENTS TO AUSTRIAN NEWSMEN

JN072045Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At the Hashimiyah Palace this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to the press group accompanying Austrian President Dr Rudolf Kirchschlaeger. The king expressed his pride at the existing good relations between Jordan and the Austrian Republic and said that government officials and citizens in Jordan admire the great achievements made by the Austrian people. The king said that the friendship between the Jordanian and Austrian peoples is historic. He expressed the hope that this visit will help strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries.

Asked about the truth of the reports that he intends to visit the United States to meet with President Carter within the context of the current efforts, his majesty said that he is accustomed to making periodic visits to the United States to discuss bilateral and international issues, but his program so far does not include such a visit.

Asked about Jordan's view of the current phase of the Middle East question in light of Mr Alfred Atherton's visit to the region, his majesty said that the endeavor to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region has always been Jordan's main objective. Jordan is doing its utmost to achieve just and lasting peace in the region on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of self-determination. But there has been no indication from Israel so far showing the Israelis' desire to achieve real peace in the region. His majesty said: What we are seeing now are new Israeli changes in the meaning of Security Council Resolution 242, as indicated by the statement of the Israeli prime minister, who announced that the resolution does not apply to the occupied West Bank.

His majesty announced that there are many other interpretations and proposals aimed at wasting time and weakening the peace process. The king stressed the necessity to include the Palestinians in the search for peace and to recognize their national rights on their land. He said Israel must commit itself to withdrawal to the 1967 borders. Speaking about Jordan's viewpoint on the question of the occupied city of Jerusalem, his majesty said that Jerusalem does not just mean the holy places, but also all the lands surrounding the city, which constitute about one-third of the area of the West Bank and which Israel has annexed under the slogan of establishing the greater Jerusalem area. The problem here is not one of security, as Israel claims, but of the desire to expand. This explains Israel's establishment of the settlements which, in our opinion, are permanent bases.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his regret over the intransigent Israeli stand and the real peace prospects which are being wasted. The results could be dreadful to the region and the whole world, he said. His Majesty King Husayn said that attempts are being made now to formulate a declaration of principles, which are already stipulated in the UN resolutions. What we need is more than just a declaration of principles; we need tangible proof of Israel's commitment to withdrawal and to enabling the Palestinian people to determine their own destiny within the framework of just peace.

Replying to another question on whether he thinks the pressure being put on Israel is insufficient, His Majesty King Husayn said: What is required now is more than just mediation to attain a certain level of success. The current situation does not encourage any positive results. Any dialog will be useless unless there has been a change in the Israeli stand. The king said that he sees great danger in this stand. His majesty expressed the belief that the United States and the whole world must reconsider their attitude toward Israel, which is offering nothing for peace. On the contrary, it is obstructing the efforts being exerted.

Replying to a question on the reported release of detainees in Jordan and the political significance of this action, his majesty said that he has no knowledge of the existence of political detainees or the release of detainees. He said: If there are detainees, and some have been released, these would be measures related to criminal charges, which are subject to law and to normal procedure in such cases.

Asked if the possible failure of President as-Sadat's peace initiative would lead to the outbreak of war in the region, his majesty said that the collapse of the initiative will definitely close the door to peace. There would be no use then speaking about Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 or about any political attempts to solve the Middle East crisis.

Asked why Jordan has not participated in the current peace talks, his majesty said: President as-Sadat undertook his initiative unilaterally without consulting anyone, as he himself announced. The initiative was a surprise to us, but I described it as a courageous initiative, which showed to the world that there are people in the Arab world who really want peace.

King Husayn added that President as-Sadat made it clear that he wanted complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians and their participation in the peace endeavors. We on our part agree with him on these points. Since 1967 we in Jordan have been repeating that we wanted peace and we have been exerting our efforts to reach a peaceful settlement which will return all the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank, which we have said could remain under international supervision until the Palestinian people are able to decide their own future by themselves.

His majesty said that time has passed without anything being achieved because of the Israeli attitude. We in Jordan have not been able to achieve a disengagement since the war of 1967. Therefore we do not see that talks about peace stand any chance of success unless Israel changes its attitude toward the whole issue. His majesty called for the enlarging the basis of the peace efforts and allowing all the Arab sides to take part. He also called for the participation of the Soviet Union in peace efforts.

On a question concerning Arab solidarity, his majesty said that Arab solidarity will be restored in order to face the challenges which threaten the existence of the Arab world. He added that Jordan will exert every effort to this end.

In reply to a question on the differences among the Israeli political parties concerning peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis, his majesty said that he did not find any differences among the Israeli parties in their viewpoints regarding peace. On the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, his majesty said that the Palestinian people, just like any other people in the world, have the right to decide for themselves their own destiny.

This is a sacred right in the eyes of the whole world. The king added that Jordan has struggled and is still struggling with all its power to achieve this right and to stand by it. His majesty wondered why the Palestinian people, of all the peoples of the world, should be denied that right. He said that the Palestinian people wanted just peace which is acceptable to the other Arab sides.

At the conclusion of the press conference his Majesty praised the good and friendly relations between Austria and Jordan. He said that the Austrian president's visit to Jordan will help strengthen the relations between the two countries. He said that certain economic issues had been discussed and that these issues had been referred to specialized committees to follow up.

Press Comments

JN0817417Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] The editorials of the Jordanian newspapers today focus on the important political talk which took place between King Husayn and the Austrian press delegation at the press conference his majesty held yesterday. In their editorials the papers make clear the profound meaning and comprehensive understanding characterizing King Husayn's talk on the area crisis and the future of peace in light of the current factors.

Under the headline "The Era of Miracles is Gone," AR-RA'Y says: With [illegible] simplicity and farsight King Husayn summed up the situation in the area. He pointed out the road to salvation and the road to catastrophe in the Israeli [illegible] salvation if just peace is established and catastrophe if Israel [illegible] to its inflexible stand. In his talk with the Austrian press delegation, [illegible] the Austrian President, the king went beyond regional boundaries into [illegible] arena in his clarification, by proposing the need to have the [illegible] in solving the dispute and by defining the basic principles for solving the Palestinian issue should there be a desire for genuine peace in the area. In short, King Husayn's call aims to concert Arab and international efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution to the dispute with the participation of all parties concerned. In brief, the talk of leader King Husayn exposed Israel's maneuvers, deception and [illegible] during the past years of occupation and its constant tricks to waste every effort exerted to settle the area crisis. Thus we can say the efforts being exerted on the level of bilateral negotiations are no longer useful because Israel is using these efforts to achieve its goals of expansion and establishment of settlements at the expense of Arab rights and land. Concluding, AR-RA'Y says: The real catastrophe lies in the core of the Israeli stand. If the international community fails to change this inflexible stand then the catastrophe will take place; nothing can prevent it because the era of miracles is gone.

On the same subject the weekly newspaper AL-LIWA' says: Husayn's warning that the United States and the other countries that really love peace should assume their genuine responsibility and abandon the old method of dealing with Israel, and that a new method of action must now be adopted if it is desired to have peace prosper and the area peoples proceed along the road of love, construction and development serves to show the gravity of the current phase and the importance of the role the United States should shoulder at this stage.

The paper adds: The current phase requires the United States to play more than a mediator role. It is also required to abandon the shuttle diplomacy role, which is content with conveying ideas and views from one party to another without taking any effective, guiding and pressure role when necessary.

AD-DUSTUR says: The successive U.S. administrations, including Carter's administration, have been accustomed to avoiding exerting any pressure on Israel. This stand has led to the continuation and intensification of Israel's stand, which went as far as to make Begin interpret Security Council Resolution No 242 as not committing Israel to withdraw from the West Bank. Whether or not the traditional U.S. stand, which rejects any pressure on Israel, is based on considerations connected with the Zionist pressure groups in the U.S. arena or on the hope that Israel will be sensible, it has become evident to Washington and the entire world that this stand has markedly contributed to encouraging Israeli intransigence and consequently to diminishing the chances of peace in the Middle East. Thus it is incumbent upon the United States to review its stand on Israel if the United States earnestly desires to achieve just and honorable peace in the area. Concluding its article the paper says: It would be better for the United States and the international community to join together in imposing peace on Israel, because the only alternative would be to waste the chance for peace and to give Israel the chance to impose war on the area and perhaps all of mankind.

Under the headline "The New Israeli Maneuver," AL-AKHBAR says: The New York TIMES spoke about deep differences between U.S. President Carter's administration and Begin's government because of the latter's attitude on Security Council Resolution No 242, especially on Begin's recent interpretations which allege that the resolution does not apply to the occupied West Bank. AL-AKHBAR says: These interpretations, as King Husayn said yesterday in his talk to the Austrian journalists, are simply a new Israeli maneuver aimed at weakening the peace process. The paper adds: The statements made yesterday by Alfred Atherton strengthened this sound view. Atherton said the peace process in the Middle East is facing two main obstacles. The first is Israel's intransigent policy on the settlements and the second is the new Israeli interpretation of Resolution 242. AL-AKHBAR says: It might be important for U.S. Envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton to arrive in the Middle East to study the area crisis, to try to participate in finding a just settlement for this crisis and to ascertain the nature of the main obstacles obstructing peace efforts in this area of the world. But what is more important is that Atherton determine the nature of the role the United States can play in removing these obstacles and any other new obstacle Israel may place in the path of peace, especially since the United States has not so far performed the positive role required to achieve success for the peace process in this area, which is one of the most explosive areas in the world. Concluding, AL-AKHBAR says: The United States is required more than anyone else to halt these Israeli maneuvers, which are threatening the security of the entire world by rejecting the establishment of peace in the area.

BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON SEEN AS LAST CHANCE

JN071806Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Nasuh al-Majali commentary: "Will Begin's Visit to Washington be the Last Chance, or the First Step Toward Peace?"]

[Excerpts] Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's visit to Washington will begin the middle of next week amidst speculation regarding the importance and significance of this visit, and perhaps its consequences for the future of the alternative to peace in the Middle East area.

Although Israel has been careful to pave the way for the visit through contacts and official visits to Washington and through statements in Tel Aviv belittling the importance of the differences between Tel Aviv and Washington, the visit takes place under circumstances which can be described as the worst in Israeli-U.S. relations since the establishment of Israel.

The United States realizes that Israel has deliberately and determinedly drowned the U.S. efforts for peace in a sea of petty details in order to avoid the discussion of essential matters pertaining to peace. For this reason the United States has entrusted Mr Atherton with the task of tackling minor issues raised by Israel regarding the arrangements and procedures of the peace talks. It also entrusted him with the task of gaining the time required for the continuation of the peace efforts until the Carter-Begin meeting is held the middle of next week and until the results of this meeting pertaining to the movement of the current peace efforts are known.

All these heavy clouds will accompany Begin on his visit to Washington. He is clearly aware that deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations will arouse the apprehensions of the Israeli people about their government. It will also increase Israel's isolation from the world and fully expose its position before the world, particularly before Israel's friends.

It seems that the importance of Begin's visit lies in its being either the last stop on the road toward a peace which does not drown in the details of the Israeli maneuvers and does not freeze as a result of the paralysis which Zionism and its centers of power are imposing on the role of the United States in moving forward the chances of peace.

We in Jordan have big hopes that the United States will be able to transform Begin's visit into a pillar for the chances of serious peace and an occasion for Israel and its government to abandon its expansionist dreams and accept the reality of coexistence based on acceptance, justice and recognition of the rights of the neighboring peoples, particularly the Palestinian people.

'REVOLUTIONARY PARTY' SPEAKS OF ARRESTS IN JORDAN

JN072120Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party [Hizb ash-Sha'b ath-Thawri al-Jrduni] has appealed to all the democratic and socialist forces which are fighting for freedom in the world to support the struggle of the Jordanian masses to attain their democratic freedom. This came in a statement today by the party spokesman commenting on the recent campaign of arrests waged by the monarchical authorities in Amman among the ranks of the Jordanian nationalist forces.

The statement says: Following As-Sadat's treasonous steps, the monarchical regime, which is a party to the imperialist-Zionist alliance in the region, is now (?openly) participating in these steps. The spokesman added: Knowing that the masses are opposed to its treasonous steps, the monarchical regime has launched a savage campaign of arrests among the ranks of the nationalist forces, which constitute the vanguard of our masses in their struggle to resist the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plan.

FRONT DEBATES EXTENSION OF DETERRENT FORCE MANDATE

NC071626Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Since the announcement that detente has been late in arriving, the Lebanese front has decided, in a meeting it held this morning, to issue a statement tomorrow on the current situation and the issues in the political and security fields.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil also called on newsmen to await the statement, which will give the front's views. Former President Camille Sham'un said that the formula for detente will not be announced tomorrow and called for speeding up agreement on a unified view by the Lebanese. He added: When this viewpoint becomes known to President Sarkis, the Lebanese front will request a meeting with him in order to learn about this agreement. Asked about the content of tomorrow's statement, the front's chairman said: It will deal particularly with the presence of the Arab deterrent forces, the end of their mandate, and what they have achieved in relation to the Arab League resolutions, which have outlined their tasks.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese front held a meeting of its leaders and members at 1100 today in the house of former President Sulayman Franjiyyah in An-Naqqash. Abbot Sharbil Qassis was absent for ecclesiastical reasons. During the 2-hour meeting a general review of the situation in the country was made in light of the information the front's leaders had at their disposal. The front also discussed the renewal of the Arab deterrent forces' mandate. And while there was agreement on the extension of their mandate, it was found appropriate to proceed in reviving the clauses of the Riyadh agreement and in adding other clauses to it, which will insure the renewal of their mandate for an additional 6 months only. It was noted that the Lebanese front has decided to ask official quarters to continue their Arab and international contacts concerning the presence of the Arab deterrent forces. It also expressed satisfaction of the new Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti moves, which aim at insuring the support of moderate Arab states for the Arab deterrent forces. Regarding the Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti moves, one of the members of the former Arab quadripartite committee announced today that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have informed the Lebanese authorities of their candid views on the subjects of the extension of the force and its tasks, which are summed up in the following points:

1. The progress in the security situation in Lebanon calls for turning the Arab deterrent forces into observation forces.

2. There is no objection to decreasing the size of the Arab deterrent forces while preserving the principle of their diversity.

3. It has become imperative that the regular Lebanese forces assume their basic tasks at the same time as Lebanon is moving toward internal detente.

4. It is necessary to return to the Riyadh resolutions and the adherence of all the countries which participated in the minisummit to what was agreed upon irrespective of the political and security developments that have occurred or might occur in the Middle East.

In other words, the Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti move aims at keeping Lebanon away from the effects of the rivalry of the various Arab camps and at determining the jurisdiction of the deterrent forces in security matters.

SARKIS, DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER DISCUSS SECURITY

NC061228Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today met with Lt Col Sami al-Khatis, the commander of the Arab deterrent forces. After the meeting Al-Khatis said: I came to receive His Excellency President Sarkis' directives. He asserted that the security situation is satisfactory. Regarding his contacts with the various parties, he said: All the parties expressed full readiness to cooperate, because all of them approved the [security] measures and want stability. We must respond to the wishes of the people.

INCREASED ISRAELI CONCENTRATIONS ON BORDER REPORTED

NC071013Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 7 March--According to reports from southern Lebanon this morning, Israeli military concentrations along the Lebanese border have been increased and reinforced with tanks and troop transports. The reports also say that Israeli aircraft are carrying out continuous reconnaissance flights over the areas of Tyre and Bint Jubayl, where the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement are stationed. According to information reaching the Lebanese capital, the Israeli heavy artillery shelling to which the area of Bint Jubayl has been subjected for the past 24 hours has caused losses in inhabited villages and a number of persons, including women and children, have been killed or wounded. According to sources of the Lebanese nationalist movement, Israeli naval patrols with helicopter support are making sporadic appearances off the Lebanese southern shores from (Ra's an-Naqurah) in the southernmost part to Al-Qasiniyah, 'Adlun and as-Sarafand. The sources added that the situation has again become tense in the area of Hasbayya, in the central sector, after a week of relative calm.

SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER INSPECTS DETERRENT FORCES

JN041714Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--On instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, this morning paid an inspection visit to one of our units operating as part of the Arab deterrent forces in fraternal Lebanon. On arrival at the unit's headquarters, Talas was received by the commander, the officers, the noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the unit. Cheers were raised for the long life of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the leader of our nation's march, struggler Commander Hafiz al-Asad. General Talas addressed the fighters. He contragulated them on the 15th anniversary of the Glorious 8 March Revolution. He conveyed to them President al-Asad's greetings and said: brother fighters and brave men of the Syrian Arab Army, on the anniversary of the 8 March Revolution launched by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, I convey to you greetings from struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, president of the republic, and commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces. It is not out of pride and honor that I tell you that the Syrian Arab Army groups played a vanguard role in launching the Glorious 8 March Revolution and in overthrowing the obnoxious cessionist regime and restoring to Syria its noble image--an image of unity, freedom and socialism.

BA'TH PARTY STATEMENT ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

JN072105Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has issued the following statement on the 15th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution in Syria:

Comrade Ba'thists, sons of our great Arab nation: Our Arab masses these days are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution, which was carried out in 1963 by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party supported by the largest sectors of the progressive and unionist masses in Syria. The 8 March Revolution was a pioneer event in the life of the Arab nation and the contemporary Arab revolutionary movement. Its eruption was the harvest of long periods of bitter suffering and arduous struggle waged by our people under the leadership of their revolutionary avant garde against contemporary and historic impediments, epitomized in centuries of backwardness, ignorance, poverty, foreign rule and a vicious imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

The revolution recorded a qualitative turning point in its historic march through the corrective movement in the party under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on 16 November 1970.

As a result of the corrective movement in the party, the March revolution was able to put an end to the political chaos in the country. It struggled to stop the state of collapse which prevailed in the Arab arena as a result of the oppressive Zionist-imperialist aggression against the Arab nation on 5 June 1967.

On the Syrian level, the revolution implemented the party resolutions as put forth in the statement of the Provisional Regional Command in November 1970. It sought to consolidate the bonds of national unity and strengthen the domestic front by establishing the National Progressive Front under the leadership of the party. It sought to consolidate the basis of popular democracy, to formulate a permanent constitution and hold elections to the local administration councils and the People's Assembly. The revolution proceeded with quick steps in the fields of economic and social development and the building of a defensive force raising the slogan of construction and liberation, which is the indispensable basis for building a unified socialist Arab society.

On the Arab and international levels, the revolution followed progressive and purposeful formulas for Arab solidarity. It strengthened the capabilities of the Palestinian revolution and achieved further openness in its relations with friendly states in the world. It sought to mobilize Arab potentials thus enabling the Arabs to confront the Zionist enemy on 6 October 1973 for the liberation of the land and the regaining of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

Our party and people wanted the October war to be a sound beginning for the contemporary Arab struggle. The party command has constantly cautioned that our duty as an Arab nation is to proceed on the road of October by backing the bases and components which paved the way for this war through consolidating Arab solidarity, thus aiming at liberation and using Arab potentials in the service of the Arab struggle and progress and not in the service of imperialist and Zionist interests. Proceeding from this premise, the party and revolution exerted tremendous efforts after this war to safeguard purposeful Arab solidarity and to mobilize and utilize Arab potentials to this end.

These efforts led to important results and gains achieved by the Arab cause in its Palestinian context on the Arab and international levels. However, these mighty efforts which were exerted by the 8 March Revolution and which made this revolution and Syria--under the brilliant leadership of Ba'th Party Secretary General Comrade Hafiz al-Asad--the cornerstone of the contemporary Arab revolutionary movement were met by exceptional counterefforts and conspiracies hatched by imperialism, Zionism and the Arab forces which prostrated themselves, represented by As-Sadat's regime. These conspiracies aimed at taming the revolution and containing the size of the Syrian role in the current Arab struggle movement. These conspiracies also aimed at returning the Arab nation to the state of collapse, fragmentation and breakdown which prevailed in the Arab arena as a result of the 5 June 1967 aggression.

The effects of these conspiracies began to appear with the signing of the treasonable Sinai agreement between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy in 1975. In accordance with this agreement, Egypt made huge concessions at the expense of pan-Arab sovereignty, the Arab struggle and pan-Arab rights. The party and revolution adopted a firm and well-known stand vis-a-vis this agreement, leading at the time to isolation of the Egyptian regime and the escalation of the Arab struggle.

Soon afterward, imperialism, Zionism and the agent Egyptian regime opened their second front against the March revolution and Syria. This time, Lebanon was the field of that front. Syria's and the revolution's stand regarding the Lebanese events and the conspiracy and sedition in Lebanon was just as principled and clear as it was firm. The party and the revolution realized the dimensions and objectives of the conspiracy from the beginning. They adopted their firm historic stand, which stopped the bloodbath and saved fraternal Lebanon from the calamity of sectarian division. The party and revolution also provided protection for the Palestinian revolution and the sons of the Palestinian people in Lebanon. Our firm and principled stand will continue in Lebanon for the safety of Lebanon and the Lebanese people and the safety of the Arab cause.

Our struggling masses, the sinister and bloody sedition in Lebanon was not the end of the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies and the machinations of the capitulatory forces linked with imperialism and Zionism, particularly since the revolution in Syria--under the brave and farsighted leadership of the comrade secretary general of the party--foiled the designs of the sedition. The efforts exerted by Syria in Lebanon succeeded and enabled the revolution to continue its efforts to rally Arab potentials and employ them in confronting the basic contradictions--Zionism and imperialism.

The trip of disgrace and treason As-Sadat made to the occupied land and the series of contacts, meetings and visits between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy have come to wreck and thwart Arab and international efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab area based on the restoration of all the occupied Arab territories and the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. They have also created a new reality in the Arab area, namely, Egypt's desertion from the battle of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, or rather the move of Egypt's ruler to the Zionist-imperialist camp.

Since the onset of the implementation of the current conspiracy, Syria has warned about its gravity for the present and future of the Arab cause. It has called for thwarting this conspiracy and isolating the Arab party participating in it. Syria has also affirmed the necessity of the Arab nation's steadfastness and confrontation of the aggression. It has also called for compensating the Arab confrontation forces for Egypt's desertion from the confrontation forces through the implementation of a strategy based on finding a balance between Syria's defensive, economic and demographic capabilities and the capabilities of the Zionist enemy, proceeding from the fact that the realization of such a balance is the only way to check the racist Zionist expansion and achieve just peace in the area. Peace cannot be achieved in any other way in view of the nature of the Zionist enemy and his expansionist and aggressive designs which are supported by the forces of world imperialism.

Hail to our struggling Arab masses in all the Arab countries; hail to our Arab people in Egypt who are standing fast in the face of agents and traitors; hail to our Arab armed forces--the shield of the nation and the solid rock on which are dashed the conspiracies of the forces hostile to the aspirations of our people and the masses of our nation; hail to the friends of the Arab cause and the strugglers for freedom all over the world; hail to the leader of our people's march toward liberation and victory, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad; glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs. Damascus, 8 March 1978, the National Command.

COMMUNIQUE ON SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE DELEGATION'S VISIT

AU0618300Y East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 4-5 Mar 78 p 1 AU

[Text of joint communique on the visit or the SED Central Committee delegation to the Syrian Arab Republic]

[Text] At the invitation of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party a delegation of the SED Central Committee headed by Politburo member and Central Committee Secretary Paul Verner visited the Syrian Arab Republic from 27 February to 2 March 1978.

Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and Syrian president, received Paul Verner for a friendly and constructive exchange of opinions. The interlocutors discussed basic questions of the joint anti-imperialist struggle as well as the state of and the prospects of the relations between the two parties, states and peoples.

Paul Verner extended to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad the most cordial greetings of Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman. He confirmed the firm determination of the GDR party and state leadership and of the GDR people to deepen the relations of friendship, cooperation and anti-imperialist solidarity between the two parties and peoples.

Paul Verner was also received by Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and by Deputy Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Secretary Jabir Bajbuj.

The delegation visited the liberated city of Al Qunaytirah and acquainted itself with the deliberate barbaric destruction caused there by the Israeli forces. It also informed itself about some economic achievements and the historic sights of the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the SED Central Committee delegations' stay in the Syrian Arab Republic official talks were held between it and an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation headed by Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office. The negotiations passed in an atmosphere of trust, friendship and mutual agreement. They reflected the genuine wish to strengthen the close relations between the two parties and countries. The two delegations exchanged opinions about international questions of common interest, paying special attention to the current situation in the Middle East.

The following delegation members participated in the negotiations: on the side of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--**Zuhayr Musharqa**, member of the Regional Command and chairman of the Syrian Arab Republic-GDR Friendship Society; Muhammad Hadwan Kabur, first secretary of the Damascus Arab Socialist Ba'th Party District Command; Muhammad Abou Zarad, director of the International Relations Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command; Muhammad Hasan Ibrahim, sector head of the International Relations Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

On the side of the SED--Herbert Ziegenhahn, Central Committee member and first secretary of the Gera SED Bezirk leadership; Bruno Sedlaczek, sector head of the SED Central Committee, International Relations Department; Dr Wolfgang Bator, staff worker of the SED Central Committee International Relations Department.

In addition Dr Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the Syrian Arab Republic, participated.

Paul Verner briefed the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation about the implementation of the Ninth SED Congress decisions and about the working people's creative initiatives in preparing for the 30th anniversary of the founding of the GDR. He expounded on the GDR people's historic experiences under the leadership of the SED, in cooperation with the parties pooled in the National Front, in the successful shaping of a developed socialist society. He stressed that the friendship and cooperation of the SED and the GDR people with the CPSU and the Soviet people as well as with the other fraternal parties and peoples of the states of the socialist community are a decisive factor in the successful building of the developed socialist society.

The GDR is making an active contribution to strengthening world peace, to developing international cooperation and to supporting the peoples' struggle for freedom and independence. He stressed the necessity of insuring further detente and of effectively supplementing it by arms limitation measures.

Paul Verner paid tribute to the important revolutionary achievements scored by the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party since the historic March revolution of 1963 and stressed the esteem in which the GDR holds Syria's role in the struggle for peace and social progress and against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism. He paid great tribute to the Syrian Arab Republic's party and state leadership, especially to Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and Syrian Arab Republic president, for his active and constructive role in bringing about a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Middle East conflict.

Fawwaz Sayyagh informed the SED Central Committee delegation about the revolutionary achievements scored in the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in all fields of social, economic and political development since the March 1963 revolution, especially after the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad in 1970. At the same time he reported on the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's consistent and principled struggle against imperialism and Zionism to liberate the Arab territories occupied by Israel and to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. He expounded on the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's views on the most recent development in the Middle East in connection with Egyptian President As-Sadat's trip to occupied Jerusalem and on the policy of the Egyptian Government. He stressed that such a policy cannot lead to a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East but constitutes a blow against the real peace efforts. Fawwaz Sayyagh, moreover, pointed out that the policy of partial and separate solutions pursued by Israel, the imperialist forces and Zionism is aimed at undermining Arab solidarity is contrary to Arab interests and is designed to bring about splits and conflicts in the Arab front. This policy also endangers peace in the Middle East and in the whole world, he said.

Fawwaz Sayyagh also declared that the Palestinian problem constitutes the hard core of the Middle East conflict and that a comprehensive and just solution of the Middle East problem can only be achieved if Israel completely withdraws from all occupied Arab territories and if the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people are respected, including their right to self-determination and the right to establish a state of their own.

Furthermore, Fawwaz Sayyagh stressed the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people to implement their rightful national aims under the leadership of the PLO, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He paid tribute to the positive role of the conferences of the progressive Arab states and the PLO in Tripoli and Algiers in developing the resistance against the imperialist and Zionist plans and against the capitulatory separate solutions. He stressed the principled role played by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Arab Republic in the front of steadfastness and resistance that has emerged from these two conferences.

In the course of the comprehensive exchange of opinions on topical, fundamental questions of international politics the interlocutors declared with satisfaction that their positions were largely identical.

Both sides declared that the international balance of forces has changed in favor of peace and progress and has produced positive effects on detente and on the elimination of hotbeds of crisis. They reaffirmed their determination to jointly intensify their efforts to protect mankind from the danger of a nuclear world war. They regard the convening of the UN General Assembly special session on questions of disarmament that is to take place this year as an important step toward convening a world disarmament conference. Both sides expressed their concern over the aggressive policy of the imperialist and Zionist forces, which is threatening security and peace throughout the world and is directed against the peoples' national liberation and social progress. They resolutely opposed the attempts to undo the results of detente achieved so far and to accelerate the arms race through the development of new weapons of mass destruction such as the neutron bomb. Both sides expressed their parties' determination to contribute to the consolidation of peace and security in Europe. They stressed the close connection between security and peace in Europe and in the Middle East.

Both sides paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East. They condemned the continuing occupation of Arab territories by Israel and its refusal to recognize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, as a result of which the explosive hotbed of tension in this region continues to exist and peace and security in the world are endangered. They most sharply condemned Israel's continuing occupation terrorism, the constant violation of human rights, racial discrimination and subjugation practiced by the aggressor in the occupied Arab territories in violation of the UN resolutions. Both sides condemned Israel's activities aimed at establishing fortified settlements in the occupied Arab territories as an expression of Israel's expansionist aims and its endeavors to annex these territories. They resolutely opposed the policy of stalling and of rejecting a comprehensive and just peace settlement in the Middle East.

The two delegations stressed that a just and durable peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the complete withdrawal of all Israeli armed forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the implementation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people including the right to self-determination and to establishing an independent state of their own. Both sides are convinced that the policy of separate negotiations and solutions in the Middle East is very harmful to the interests of the Arab peoples and is aimed at wrecking a comprehensive and just solution of the Middle East conflict. They resolutely condemned actions that are directed against the unity and the struggle of the Arab and African states and peoples for national liberation and independence. They were of the opinion that this serves the plans of Israel and of the imperialist forces and obstructs the struggle of the Arab peoples for a just Middle East solution.

Both sides regarded the summit conferences of Tripoli and Algiers as important and constructive steps toward establishing the unity of the anti-imperialist forces in the Arab region. They are convinced that the continuation of the endeavors for further consolidating this unity is the way to thwart the imperialist and Zionist attempts to weaken the Arab liberation struggle and the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO's leadership.

Both parties advocated a strengthening and deepening of the relations of friendship and cooperation in the political, economic and cultural field between the Arab national liberation movement and the states of the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union as well as the nonalined states and all progressive forces in the world on the basis of the joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and neocolonialism, observing equal rights, mutual respect, independence and mutual noninterference in internal affairs.

Both parties gave assurances that they would continue to support in the future the just struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for national liberation and social progress. They condemned the criminal, peace-endangering policy of the racist regimes in southern Africa and resolutely supported the elimination of apartheid. They firmly opposed the collaboration between the racist regimes in Israel, South Africa and the imperialist circles which, in systematic violation of the UN resolutions, continue their political, diplomatic economic and military aid to South Africa and the white minority regime in Zimbabwe.

Both sides again affirmed their solidarity with and support for the just struggle of the national liberation movements of the peoples of Africa.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the SED attached primary importance to the deepening of relations between their two parties. In this context both parties reaffirmed their readiness to continue to develop their friendly relations, and to raise them onto a new level. A new agreement was concluded on shaping the relations between the SED and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for the years 1978-79.

On behalf of the SED delegation Paul Verner thanked the friendly Ba'th Party for the cordial reception and hospitality extended to it in the Syrian Arab Republic. He conveyed an invitation for a representative Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation to visit the GDR. The Syrian side accepted it with gratitude and pleasure. Damascus, 2 March 1978.

PLANNING MINISTER TALKS WITH SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION

JN071444Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 7 March--Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs, this morning received Mr Morovinov, deputy chief of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the Soviet Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Soviet delegation to the Permanent Syrian-Soviet Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting there was a review of the topics being discussed by the subcommittees stemming from the joint committee at their current meetings, which are being held in the ministries concerned. These subcommittees began their meetings yesterday.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA LAUDS AFRICAN NONALINEMENT, HITS FRANCE

LD071647Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[APS Tripoli report: "An Imperialist Strategy Is Being Implemented Against the Arab World and Africa"]

[Text] Tripoli--During the closing meeting of the 30th session of the OAU Council of Ministers, Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, a member of the Revolutionary Council and foreign minister, made the following statement:

"Since the victory of the Indochinese peoples, an imperialist strategy has been implemented and the main targets have been the Arab world and Africa.

"Thus, strategic, political and economic objectives have been transferred to these two zones which, apart from their special geographical position, constitute the main source of raw materials, especially energy resources.

"Imperialist policy follows two lines in this plan to regain control over these two trouble spots. The first is directed at the organizations for political and economic solidarity, established in Third World countries, which have succeeded in restoring validity and strength to the aspirations of these countries.

"The second line of this policy is, in fact, just a corollary of the first, since the countries chosen as primary objectives for a policy of encircling and destabilization are those which follow a policy of national independence and nonalinement.

"The simultaneous nature of these frontal attacks clearly illustrates the imperialist scheme to establish an infrastructure which would insure the peaceful docility required if imperialists were to gain control of economic wealth.

"As everyone knows, Africa has made the option of nonalinement a categorical necessity. It is laid down in the OAU charter. This principle is a tangible reality both in inter-African relations and in relations between Africa and the rest of the world. Nevertheless, certain powers, eager to regain their colonial conquests, refuse to accept what this nonalinement policy implies, its essential characteristics being national independence and the exercise of real sovereignty over natural resources, which produce cooperation based on mutual benefit. Under these circumstances there is less and less opportunity for the former colonizer to take over again by the roundabout means of certain particularly significant initiatives in colonial penetration. Recent years have been marked by a series of significant decisions moving toward effective nonalinement. In practice this policy has been reflected in the desire which many African states have shown to commit themselves to a policy linked to increased control over their wealth and common defense of their joint interests. This demonstration of Africa's ability to be itself and the fact that success achieved in decolonization has encouraged Africa to pursue these independent objectives have led imperialism to try and swerve from decolonization and oppose national policies followed by African states.

"This phase coincides with increased aggression by racist regimes in South Africa against the frontline countries, especially Mozambique, Angola, Zambia and Botswana, along with Western initiatives essentially aimed at providing the best conditions for the survival of the apartheid system and of exploitation and domination.

"The colonial power's appropriation of the Comores in East Africa constitutes a serious neglect of France's obligations as the administrating power and is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter by a permanent member of the Security Council. By continuing to occupy this territory on the pretext of a law invoked specially for the occasion, France has revealed the instinct for domination which it is trying to satisfy in other parts of Africa."

WEST BANK PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES

LD071332Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] A Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories headed by Karim Khalaf, the mayor of Ramallah, arrived in Algiers the day before yesterday to hold talks with a number of officials regarding the implementation of the resolution of the Arab cities conference which provides for twinning the occupied city of Ramallah with the city of Algiers. This twinning will lead to Algiers municipality giving assistance to the municipality of Ramallah which, like the other occupied Palestinian cities, is subjected to economic siege by the Zionist authorities in order to weaken the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the country.

The delegation was received by a number of party officials, representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the city of Algiers, and the PLO representative in Algiers.

In a statement at the airport, Khalaf said: "I carry greetings from the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to His Excellency the struggler President Houari Boumediene and to the brotherly Algerian people, from whose struggle we have learned that victory is inevitable for people who struggle."

Khalaf also stressed that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories stand united under the banner of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people.

LIBYA

SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY BEGINS VISIT TO BELGIUM

LD031540Y Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, March 3 JANA--The Jamahiriyah secretary of industry, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, on an official visit to Belgium, discussed with Belgian industrialists the possibility of using Belgian expertise and technical advice on the large-scale development plan in the Jamahiriyah. The secretary of industry paid a visit to the nuclear power station for generating electricity in Brussels last Wednesday, as well as the wool and carpet plants.

TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERS MESSAGE

LD2700944Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri yesterday conveyed messages from President Habib Bourguiba and Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Discussions during the meeting, attended by officials from both Libya and Tunisia, covered ways and means to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries for the good of their peoples. Following this meeting, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had a 30-minute closed meeting with Fitouri.

MOROCCO

OFFICIALS ACCUSE ALGERIA IN CABLE TO WALDHEIM

LD072132Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The leaders of the parliamentary blocs have sent a cable to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The text follows:

We have the honor to inform you that, according to accurate information from the Tindouf region, heinous crimes were committed during last January by the Algerian military authorities. These authorities committed mass killings in the region. The victims were scores of people from among the Moroccans being held in Algerian camps. These massacres were committed after the detained families objected to Algerian soldiers entering the camps for the purpose of forcing the sons of these families to join the mercenary gangs which are being used by Algeria to wage hostile raids against the two neighboring countries, Morocco and Mauritania.

Mr Secretary General, we beg you to issue orders for an on-the-spot investigation to clarify the matter in this new tragedy which is likely to horrify world conscience--a tragedy which once again projects the inhuman and barbarian aspect of the behavior of Algerian militarists who are practicing the most heinous terror and mass annihilation against the camp dwellers after their complete failure to mislead these people became apparent.

We urge you to intercede with the Algerian authorities to make [illegible] pursuing this policy of pressure and oppression against our tragic citizens and to give them the freedom to return to their birthplaces and finally to realize particularly that no self-respecting country can build its policy on repression, killing and the abduction of the innocent or by alienating them from their homeland and kin and throwing them into a tragic way of living.

Kindly accept our profound respect and appreciation.

SUDAN

MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON SOVIET ARMS SUSPENSION

NC071745Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 7 March--Sudanese Defense Minister Lt Gen Bashir Muhammad 'Ali has said that contacts are continuing among the Red Sea littoral states, particularly following the Soviet interference in the Horn of Africa. He said that these contacts aim at coordinating the stand and defining the duty of each of these states so that the Red Sea may become a lake of peace.

Lt Gen Bashir Muhammad 'Ali criticized the Soviet Union's stand regarding the supply of arms to Sudan and said that the Soviet Union long ago suspended the supply of spare parts for Soviet arms which Sudan had purchased from the Soviet Union. He added that Sudan had succeeded in overcoming this obstacle with the assistance of some friendly states.

In a statement tothe EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, the Sudanese minister praised the stand of China and its assistance to Sudan and said that the cooperation between the two countries is continuing.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA INTERVIEWED ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ID070957Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 1 Mar 78 pp 1, 3-4 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Tunisian People's Reaction Is the Strongest Proof That Our Development Policy Has the Support of the Vast Majority of the Masses"--first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The 18 February issue of the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH published an interview which the prime minister granted to its special envoy in Tunis (Ali Omar Jeber) [as published] under the heading "Hedi Nouira Reveals the Extent of the Conspiracy."

Question: What do you think caused the recent events?

Answer: There are many causes, but the most important are of a political nature. Some people did not like our view of society and the place of the individual in it. We are trying to make Tunisian society a middle-of-the-road society. Indeed, there is not an excessive gap between minimum and maximum incomes in Tunisia. Almost 80 percent of citizens spend between 50 and 400 dinars per person per year. There is no class which enjoys exorbitant fortunes. Less than 5 percent of the national community consumes more than 400 dinars a year. Moreover, less than 16 percent of citizens now consume less than 50 dinars per head as against 27 percent 10 years ago--which proves that we are moving toward a fairer distribution of wealth. Tunisian society is, therefore, a middle-class society. But a middle-class society is distinguished by striving and hard work. Now, striving and hard work can only bear fruit in a climate of political stability. This stability does not suit certain pseudorevolutionaries. Therefore they are trying to sow hatred and discord and have no hesitation in trying to trick the people and exploit them. Their action constitutes political sabotage based on the notion of class. Others are embarrassed by the success of the Tunisian experiment, especially since our country has only modest material resources, little money and a small population and geographical area. The Tunisian example highlights their failure. Those people who feel competent and think themselves destined to govern the country from another trend. Some of them were removed from power for incompetence and lack of political ability. That is why they are trying to denigrate our system and undermine its foundations. So there are many factors involved. Men with very different aims united to carry out sabotage. But it was just an illusion. I must say that the Tunisian people reacted with great moderation. This is the strongest proof that our policy of economic and social development is supported by the vast majority of the Tunisian people.

Question: Some of the saboteurs were armed, Prime Minister, and the police discovered other arms. Can you tell me where these arms come from and how they were brought into Tunisia?

Answer: All I can tell you is that these arms exist and were found in the Tunisian General Confederation of Labor [UGTT] offices in Tunis, Sousse and Sfax. There were various types of hand weapons.

Questons: Possessing arms is not one of the UGTT's functions and it is not normally allowed to possess them. How did this happen?

Answer: Arms are rare in Tunisia. Current investigations will reveal the source of the arms in question.

Question: Mr Mohamed Masmoudi said that Tunisia was going to turn into a second Lebanon. What measures do you think would guarantee the country's security?

Answer: Our people guarantee the country's security. When the recent attempts were made we did our duty as a government to restore order and protect the citizen and his property. We did our duty, even though it was painful in some cases.

But our people watch over political security. This was shown by the fact that everything returned to normal within a few hours.

Question: Can you tell me the extent of Tunisia's economic relations with other Arab countries and what part Arab capital plays in the country's development projects?

Answer: Arab aid to Tunisia is small compared with what we receive from other friendly countries. It is no more than 25 percent.

The part played by Arab capital in economic and industrial enterprises is extremely limited. But that does not mean we do not welcome Arab aid. On the contrary, we would like fraternal Arab countries to participate in Tunisia's development program by investing some of their surplus capital in projects of benefit to all partners. In our opinion, investment has nothing to do with charity and is an economic transaction which should bring a reasonable return so as to encourage further investments.

Excellent initiatives have been taken in this direction. Certain Arab countries have recently become interested in Tunisian development projects. These countries include Saudi Arabia, which has given Tunisia financial aid--for which we are grateful--for carrying out important projects and work in sensitive sectors of our economy.

Question: With regard to your reference to Saudi aid, it appears that you are planning to visit Saudi Arabia.

Answer: I sincerely want to visit Saudi Arabia to see how far it has developed in various fields. I visited your country several years ago and I saw signs of a considerable economic and social revival based on planning, prospecting the country's resources and seeking the best possible formula for exploiting them. I would like to thank His Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir apparent to the throne and deputy prime minister, for the invitation he sent me via his excellency the ambassador of Saudi Arabia to visit his country, and I hope to be able to go. This visit would give me great pleasure.

Question: It has been claimed that the recent events were intended to call certain economic conditions into question. It was also claimed to be a movement to defend a class which is impoverished because another class is acquiring wealth. What do you see as the real facts of the situation, in your capacity as a senior government official?

Answer: The economic changes, social benefits, wage increases and rising incomes are enough to refute these assertions. What is more, the very people who oppose our opinions, viewpoints and concepts of the type of society to build acknowledge this to be true.

The arguments which have been produced are just alibis to justify acts of sabotage which, in the final analysis, are criminal acts.

Question: Can you tell me whether Mr Habib Achour was arrested for political reasons or whether his arrest was a preventive measure, because he was involved in the recent events?

Answer: Mr Habib Achour was arrested because he took part in the incidents. His aims in provoking these incidents were political, not economic or social. There is no other way of explaining his call for a general strike when we had reached agreement on the method to be followed in implementing our development and social progress program.

Question: There was provision for dialog.

Answer: We never closed the door on dialog, but he rejected dialog and went back on his undertakings. We had, in fact, agreed to meet at intervals and a meeting had been planned for next April. I am not aware that any demands were put to the government.

The aim behind the operation was essentially political and based on designs which events have revealed.

Question: Prime Minister, can you describe relations between Tunisia and Saudia Arabia, particularly in view of the fact that you definitely plan to visit Saudi Arabia?

Answer: Relations between Tunisia and Saudi Arabia are good, very good. Nothing can damage these relations and they are not marred by any problems. Our view of society and our positions on the Middle East conflict are very similar. If there are any problems, they are caused by others.

Question: The Washington POST stressed the success of the Tunisian economy in an article entitled: "Tunisia Pays the Price of Its Success." This invalidates the allegations that the Tunisian economy is deteriorating. What are the main aspects of this success?

Answer: There are many aspects of our success, and it would be difficult to list them all in such a short time. However, there are figures which demonstrate this success and which speak for themselves. Tunisian development action in the seventies has been based on the following:

1--The creation of as many jobs as possible to insure a decent life for all Tunisian citizens.

2--The fairest possible distribution of the wealth created by this development among all those who have contributed to it. This means that our development action is also social action.

Another aspect of our success is that we have managed to create 40,000 jobs per year in the seventies whereas we created only 15,000 jobs per year in the sixties. Furthermore, we intend to create 60,000 jobs per year during the period covered by the fifth plan.

Moreover, the minimum wage has increased at a spectacular rate, and this also bears witness to our success in the social field. It has risen from 84 millimes an hour in 1970 to 193 millimes an hour in 1977. It is easy to calculate the total daily wage given an 8-hour working day. Therefore wages have increased by more than 100 percent while prices have only gone up 5 percent a year between 1970 and 1977.

Another factor which demonstrates the success of our development policy is the growth in gross industrial production at an annual rate of 9.5 percent, which is a very high rate. The volume of gross industrial production rose from 758 million dinars in 1970 to 2.126 billion dinars in 1977.

National savings have also increased. They rose from 104 million dinars in 1970 to 433 million dinars in 1977, while private savings increased 4.5 times in the same period. That is why investment in Tunisia is due largely to national and private savings.

In the sixties national savings made a 60-percent contribution to our development efforts, but this proportion has now risen to 80 percent, if not more. Tunisia relies mainly on its own resources for financing development. Foreign aid given by fraternal countries totalled 40 percent of investment in the last decade but less than 20 percent in the period covered by the fourth plan.

Our achievements in the social field bear witness to the success of our economic policy. We believe that economic development is only successful if it has a positive influence on the human condition and the development of society on the levels of consumption, increased standard of living and wage raises.

I have already pointed out that wages have gone up by a spectacular amount. We have also made great strides in house building. Although we only built 10,000 dwellings a year in the last decade, we managed to build 18,000 dwellings a year during the period covered by the fourth plan. We plan to build 25,000 dwellings a year during the fifth plan period.

Some 32.9 percent of the state budget is devoted to education. Indeed, 66 percent of the same budget is devoted to social benefits such as education, public health, culture, youth and sport and professional and technical training [sentence as published].

The average amount spent on social benefits paid to individuals, in other words family allowances, student grants, retirement pensions and other allowances, which was formerly 37 dinars per capita per year, is now 70 dinars a year.

Youth is still our principal concern. The jobs which we are creating are intended first and foremost for young people, and in addition great efforts are being channeled into educating young people.

Tunisia, which has a population of about 6 million, has about 1.2 million young people in education at all stages from primary school to university. Education is free at all grades. Some 96 percent of students and 85.7 percent of secondary school pupils who apply for a state grant receive one.

These are a few aspects of Tunisia's development action.

WESTERN SAHARA

FORCES CLAIM NEW VICTORIES AGAINST MAURITANIANS

LD051308Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Saharan Defense Ministry has issued a military communique on the week-long military operations carried out by the Saharan Popular Liberation Army in E-n-ouatimou in Mauritania. As a result of the successive attacks waged by the liberation army, the train carrying minerals and the hotel and club used by the royal Moroccan military personnel were destroyed. Installations at a Mauritanian military port were also attacked. The day before yesterday, the Saharan fighters, using handgrenades, attacked Mauritanian and Moroccan officers at E-n-oautimou, killing two soldiers and seriously wounding three others. As a result of this daring operation, the Moroccan and Mauritanian military units were panicked and began to fire haphazardly at the popular masses.

U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MEETS WITH DAYAN

TA071146Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The talks between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton ended an hour ago in Mr Dayan's office in Jerusalem. Upon leaving the meeting Mr Atherton said that he had reported on his talks in Jordan and in Egypt. However, he added that he preferred to keep his remarks to himself until after his meeting with the prime minister this afternoon.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel has learned that information that Mr Atherton brought with him from Jordan confirms the impression that King Husayn still expects additional developments prior to making any move.

Atherton Meets With Begin

TA071804Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A few minutes ago the meeting between the U.S. roving ambassador, Alfred Atherton, and the prime minister ended. Atherton said at the end of the meeting that this was the end of the current stage of his mission and that he will go to Washington at the end of the week. Atherton said that the talks had been helpful and that the gaps between the positions of the sides had been decreased. He also said: We have created the framework for continuity in the negotiations.

Atherton Leaves for Geneva

TA081008Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The U.S. roving ambassador, Alfred Atherton, left Israel a short while ago. He left for Geneva, where he will confer with the Saudi foreign minister. Later he will fly to Washington to take part in the preparations preceding the prime minister's visit. In reply to a question by our correspondent Dan Eshel, Alfred Atherton said he is not leaving emptyhanded. Several of the gaps regarding the declaration of principles have been narrowed, thus laying a good foundation for the continuation of the negotiations.

BEGIN, U.S. AMBASSADOR DISCUSS RESOLUTION 242

TA071342Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] Israel has made it clear to the United States that in principle it accepts UN Security Council Resolution 242 as a framework for the conduct of negotiations about the achievement of a settlement in the Middle East. This clarification was made yesterday by Prime Minister Begin to U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, who reported about this to Washington immediately.

The meeting was initiaited by the ambassador, who wanted to convince the prime minister that it is better to remove the argument about Resolution 242 from the topics discussed between Jerusalem and Washington. Lewis emphsized that highlighting the Israeli interpretation regarding Resolution 242--an interpretation stating that the clause on the withdrawal from the territories does not apply to the West Bank--will make things very difficult for Begin and Dayan during their visit in Washington. The prime minister says that according to the Israeli interpretation there is no contradiction between the peace plan, including its autonomy component--the plan that rejects a withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria--and Resolution 242.

Nonetheless, it was agreed yesterday to remove this subject from the agenda on the basis of a formula saying that, on the one hand, this government basically also accepts Resolution 242 as a basis for the negotiations aimed at achieving a settlement in the Middle East and, on the other hand, that it is clear to the United States that the government has an interpretation of its own about the meaning of the resolution.

One of the arguments Irael may raise in the wake of the interpretation it gives Resolution 242 is that, if and when it holds negotiations with an Arab element on the future of the West Bank, its readiness for a withdrawal will be expressed by canceling the element of a military presence inherent in the existence of the military authorities. [as published] According to this possible argument, the apparatus of the military government and its forces are comparable to an "armed force," whose withdrawal is demanded by Resolution 242.

Nevertheless, Israel may claim that it has to continue to keep its military presence in the West Bank in order to strengthen its security, just as the United States stationed considerable forces in Germany after the World War II despite the fact that it "withdrew" from that country.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON ORDER IN GOVERNMENT, PEACE PROCESS

TA080638Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister said yesterday that over the last few weeks there had been anomolies in the operation of the government. He promised that after his return from the United States he would put things in order in the government. There has been disorder and order will be introduced, Begin said. He remarked that there had been bloodshed, as he put it. However, he expressed the hope that everything was done out of love.

In a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction the prime minister said that in the course of the peace neogitiations there had been an erosion in Egypt's position, and also in certain positions of the United States, but negotiations are by their nature prolonged and tiring. The discussion ended with the conclusion that the Knesset faction upholds the government's policy and firmly supports the prime minister in his activity on behalf of Eretz Yisra'el and peace. The proposal was accepted by a vote of 28 members against 2--Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir.

Likud Backs Begin

TA080746Y Jerusalem POST in English 8 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Asher Wallfish, POST Knesset reporter]

[Text] Premier Menahem Begin told the Likud Knesset faction last night that he will stand by his own interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 even if Israel has to stand alone.

The United States has been aware of the government's interpretation of 242 for a very long time, Begin said, and there are a number of American personalities who understand the Israeli view and support it.

(Premier Begin holds that Security Council Resolution 242, which mentions withdrawal from occupied areas, does not apply to Judaea and Samaria.)

The Likud faction voted support for the government's peace policy by 28 against 2--the two being Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir. Although the majority of those who took part in the 4-hour discussion encouraged Begin in his peace efforts, they chided him on the domestic level for not enforcing tighter discipline among his ministers.

Begin made no mention of the incident involving Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and their telephone conversations over the An-Nabi Salih settlement affair.

Begin said: "If our peace plan is not accepted we will be ready to look at other ideas, but if they are presented to us solely in the form of an ultimatum we shall certainly not accept them. We shall not dismantle our villages in the Rafah area. If the Egyptians do not accept our proposal concerning those villages, we shall demand instead that the old international border be redrawn," he told the Likud faction.

The premier said: "President Anwar as-Sadat has become a different man since the Ismailia conference, and that change is not Israel's fault. The United States has also shifted its stand since Ismailia."

Begin said that his principal aim in his coming trip to the United States will be to renew American support for the Israeli peace plan.

He said that when he returns from his trip, in about a fortnight, he will set the government's house in order. "I shall try to renew the elation of the Likud government's first great six months. We have got into a mess, but everything can be set right. This government has people lying in wait to ambush it. We are making an historic attempt for the sake of Israeli democracy and we are undergoing a tremendous test, he said, aiming his remarks at critics of the government's ineffective management.

Begin said that the Alinement had barred Judaea and Samaria to Jewish settlement and had prevented groups from establishing villages there 15 times, even using military force to do so on various occasions. "We are the government which opened up Judaea and Samaria to Jewish settlements," Begin claimed.

Ge'ula Kohen, one of Begin's sharpest critics, charged that the government had swindled Gush Emunim into putting its groups into army camps in the areas. Up to now, she said, IDF soldiers have evicted Gush settlers. Thanks to Begin's policy, she predicted, "strangers" will soon come along and evict the IDF soldiers.

Begin Rejects Likud Request

TA071417Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By DAVAR correspondent in the Knesset]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin yesterday rejected the request of the Executive of the Likud Knesset faction to appear before it in a political discussion prior to his departure for talks in Washington.

The Executive of the Likud faction decided yesterday, at the end of a stormy debate, to ask the prime minister to participate in a political discussion in the faction before his departure for the United States. But in reply to the appeal by the chairman of the Likud faction, MK Sharir, Begin said that he will not give any information about anything pertaining directly to his expected talks in Washington to anyone but the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Begin also turned down the offer only to appear in the faction and not participate in the discussion. It was therefore agreed that the prime minister will not participate in the Likud faction political discussion planned for today but that he will appear for a political discussion after his return from the United States.

MK Ge'ula Kohen sharply protested in the meeting of the Likud Executive yesterday against the refusal of the faction executive to allow her to make several urgent motions to the Knesset's agenda. MK Kohen wanted to make two motions to the agenda. One motion was worded by her as follows: "Changing the anti-Zionist policy of the government regarding the settlements in Shilo, Bet El and Nabi Salih."

The other motion urged the Knesset to discuss the report that U.S. planes use the military airfield of 'Ezyon. In the third motion [as published], MK Kohen wanted the Knesset to discuss Senator Stone's disclosure about the stationing of Hawk missiles in the Saudi base of Tabuz.

BEGIN SAID TO ORDER RESTRAINT REGARDING BEDOUINS

TA080817Y Jerusalem POST in English 8 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By Asher Wallfish, POST reporter]

[Text] Premier Menahem Begin has told Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon to order his "green patrol" to lay off the bedouin in the Negev.

Begin reportedly sent a message to Sharon that the bedouin be kept from roaming beyond their assigned areas by humane methods only.

Reports have been increasing lately that the Agriculture Ministry's "green patrol," set up to stop bedouin poaching in areas not assigned to them, has been using violent methods to harass bedouin tribes from the Sinai who have moved into the central Negev.

The ministry allowed Avraham Yofe, the head of the Nature Reserves Authority, to set up the "green patrol" two years ago to stop the bedouin from roaming, after reports said they were filching produce and damaging grazing and scrub land. Yofe runs the patrol separately from his authority.

Bedouin leaders complained recently to army officers in their district that Yofes' men were beating women and children, killing animals and using strongarm methods in a campaign to push them back into Sinai. The officers forwarded these complaints to the ministry, but Sharon backed the "green patrol" and said he would not intervene.

At this point the Defence Ministry by-passed Sharon and asked the prime minister to step in.

AS-SADAT MAKES NEW PROPOSAL TO ISRAEL ON WEST BANK

TA071239Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] A new proposal for the solution of the West Bank problem and the status of the Palestinians there, the problem which is the bone of contention preventing progress in the negotiations between Egypt and Israel, is included in the ideas transferred by Egypt to Israel recently. According to U.S. sources, Egypt will agree to the Israeli autonomy plan for a transitional period of 5 years if U.S. representatives or an international element take part--in addition to Israel, Jordan and the local Palestinian representatives--in the body that will rule the daily affairs [of the area].

These sources indicated that this idea is included in the Egyptian president's letter to Prime Minister Begin. Under those circumstances Egypt is inclined to accept the Israeli peace plan as an interim settlement only that will be limited to a period of 3 to 5 years under a quadrilateral directorate--Israel, Jordan, Palestinians and Americans--and, at the end of this period, a referendum will be held among the Palestinians regarding the future of the West Bank and on the issue of granting them self-determination.

Reaction to these reports is avoided in Jerusalem. However, it is indicated that Israel rejected any idea of the participation by outside elements in the running of the affairs of Judaea and Samaria. Israel similarly rejects the idea of a public referendum. All that Israel agrees to is that at the end of a 5-year period the principles of the settlement proposed by Israel in the framework of the autonomy plan will be reexamined.

DAYAN COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING TRIP TO WASHINGTON

TA071440Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] Great concern prevails in Jerusalem about the possibility of heavy political pressure being exerted on Israel in connection with the visit of the prime minister and the defense and finance ministers in Washington next week.

The pressure is first and foremost aimed at bringing about a change in the position of the Israeli Government to make it agree to the interpretation that Resolution 242 applies also to Judaea and Samaria. In a closed briefing in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Dayan said yesterday that the matter of the interpretation of Resolution 242 may be the most difficult topic discussed in the meetings of the prime minister and the two other ministers with President Carter and the U.S. administration heads. The major difficulty, in Dayan's opinion, stems from the full U.S. support of Egypt's and Jordan's positions on this matter and from the fact that King Husayn views this as a clear-cut condition for the possibility of joining the talks.

The DAVAR correspondent remarks that on the matter of interpretation given to Resolution 242 there is full agreement among all the political elements in the West including those known as most friendly to Israel. These elements have so far helped Israel in its struggle against the attempt to interpret Resolution 242 as a resolution compelling a total withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

Political elements in Jerusalem said yesterday that the dispatch of the telegram by Rabbi Alexander Schindler to Begin, a telegram including a demand to halt the settlements during the period of the negotiations, proves that the coming meetings in Washington may be among the most difficult ever known by an Israeli prime minister. The telegram was sent to Begin by Rabbi Schindler at the end of last week. Rabbi Schindler asked Begin to declare, prior to his arrival in the United States, the cessation of all settlements during the political negotiations.

In his answer to Schindler, Begin wrote that the Israeli Government cannot disavow its policy and that the establishment of settlements should not be viewed as an obstacle in the negotiations.

In the closed political briefing Minister Dayan said yesterday that it is possible to reach a joint Israeli-Egyptian formula of principles based mainly on the formulations heard from Carter and As-Sadat in Aswan. On the other hand, Dayan, as already mentioned, assessed the topic of the interpretation of Resolution 242 as the most difficult since Israel is not ready for an interpretation that would force us into a withdrawal in Judaea and Samaria.

explained that the government's peace proposal, including the autonomy plan, is on the agenda for the eastern front. He stressed that this plan has not been discussed yet [with the Arab countries presumably]. The foreign minister reiterated the official version according to which there is no contradiction between our peace proposals and Resolution 242, and therefore the argument around the interpretation given to the UN resolution is, in his opinion, unnecessary. Israel's position is that its proposals regarding the eastern front should be discussed first. Dayan also said that when the previous governments expressed readiness for some withdrawal on the eastern front, King Husayn did not agree to serve as a partner in the negotiations, and he demanded that the interpretation to Resolution 242 state that the withdrawal in Judaea and Samaria be total.

RESERVISTS PROTEST BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

TA071534Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] In a letter to be sent to Prime Minister Begin this morning, over 300 reserve officers, including lieutenant colonels, majors and reserve soldiers, call on the prime minister to choose the path of peace and strengthen their faith in the justice of Israel's way.

The signatories to the letter, including pilots and members of choice units in the IDF, warn the prime minister against steps that may cause mourning for generations. In their opinion Israel's security will be achieved only with the advent of peace, and they express concern lest the government prefer to maintain the country intact to the chance to achieve a peace settlement with the Arab countries.

The composers of the letter remark that they are organizing not against a political background but from anxiety over the image of the country. They promise to follow every order if, God forbid, war breaks out; nonetheless they want the prime minister to remember that their rights as citizens of the state are no less than those of the members of the greater Eretz Yisra'el movement and Gush Emunim.

Begin's Office Comments

TA071536Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office has announced that a letter sent by 300 reserve officers to the prime minister protesting Israeli positions will be dealt with in the same manner as are all other letters. At the same time, the prime minister's spokesman, Shelomo Naqdimon, added, it is inconceivable that a letter sent to the prime minister be made public prior to being given to the addressee himself. The fact that it was made public in advance points to an attempt to gain public attention.

The spokesman said that apart from the people who signed the letter there are hundreds of thousands of citizens in Israel who serve in the reserves, including officers, who comprise the vast majority of the public that elected the present government.

WEIZMAN CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT COMPOSITION, DISARRAY

TA071209Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Aharon Shamir and Eytan Haber]

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Yisra'el Har'el reports that on the eve of his departure for the United States, Defense Minister Weizman said that he expects that there will be personnel changes in the government's composition shortly. The changes will be carried out after the return from the United States of the prime minister and the ministers accompanying him.

The defense minister said this at a meeting of senior state officials. He said that there are ministers who have nothing to do or to look for in the government and gave them nicknames which were not very flattering. He did not name the ministers to whom he referred.

Weizman attacked the lack of discipline in the government, the lack of coordination and the lack of organization prevailing in it and said that the major task of the government is to bring about peace--which is closer today than ever before.

Weizman scoffed at the "phony settlements," claiming that they have caused Israel damage which is hard to remedy. As a result, Israel's credibility and image have been dealt a very severe blow. He said that he will have to dedicate much of his time and ability to persuade in order to decrease the gap in trust between Israel and the U.S. administration and public opinion.

Wants Alinement in Cabinet

TA080833Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Blitzer, 'AL HAMISHMAR U.S. correspondent]

[Excerpt] Sources close to Weizman--who said yesterday that he was "furious and boiling over" after he had heard about the An-Nabi Salih affair and had even called Minister Sharon a "criminal"--say that the minister of defense believes that an effort should now be made to establish a national unity cabinet and to incorporate the Alinement into the coalition.

Weizman believes, the sources say, that the problem now facing Israel is more with the cabinet which controls it than with the United States and the An-Nabi Salih affair is the straw that broke the camel's back.

Comments on Settlements

TA080618Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] After his arrival in Washington yesterday the defense minister said that in the next 3 weeks no new settlements will be established and no existing settlement will be enlarged. This will continue until after the prime minister completes his talks with President Carter in Washington. Later, Weizman said, the government's settlement policy will be reexamined. He emphasized that his position regarding the settlements was taken with the approval of the prime minister in a telephone call they held the day before yesterday. About the negotiations in the Middle East, the defense minister said that we are in the midst of a peace process. Israel is prepared to sacrifice its security.

In an announcement transmitted from the United States for publication in Jerusalem, Weizman expressed regret that the clarifications held within the Israeli Government reached the communications media in a partially distorted manner and that remarks were taken out of context. He said that the problems the government and the people are facing these days compel us, owing to their nature and sensitivity, toward clarification, discussion and exchanges of opinion. The defense minister emphasized that until the clarifications yield fruits they should be conducted with full secrecy.

MINISTER SHARON CRITICIZES SHILO SETTLERS

TA071551Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By Eli'ezer Shtrauch]

[Text] The minister of agriculture, Ari'el Sharon, yesterday accused the members of the Shilo nucleus of Gush Emunim of having "behaved dishonestly."

Members of the nucleus requested permission to work on excavations after the reasons for the cabinet's opposition to the establishment of a settlement there had been made plain to them. They violated the agreement by the fact that they tried to create a fait accompli on the spot and set up a permanent settlement.

Sharon explained that the cabinet's opposition to authorizing the settlement in Shilo did not spring from political reasons, but from practical considerations after it had emerged that there was no ground there which enabled economic existence.

Aside from his criticism of the Shilo people, Sharon said that this affair was an exception and that the rest of the settlements should not be judged according to that act. Sharon praised the devotion of the settlers who had established settlement points over recent months and said that they were playing an important role by the fact that they had helped to establish a security strip around Israel's towns, whose importance would increase in the framework of peace settlements.

Among other things, Sharon said:

--Differences of opinion with the minister of defense. Sharon admitted that there were differences in view between him and Weizman, but he insisted that there was no personal rivalry between them. "I aspire to peace no less than any other minister, but I insist that peace has no value without security."

--Deviating from cabinet decisions. In his view, he has not deviated from decisions about settlements in the Rafah approaches. No new settlements have been established and all activities carried out have been intended to enlarge and reinforce the existing settlements. The establishment of settlements is not an obstacle to peace as long as As-Sadat is insisting on the demands he put forward, from the very first minute, for a return to the June 1967 borders, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the partition of Jerusalem.

--The accusations by the Labor Party heads about "ghost settlements." This method, Sharon said, had actually been learned from the previous cabinets. Thus, for example, settlement on the Golan Heights was begun after the 6-day war by members of a nucleus which had been sent there under cover of being IDF workers.

BAHRAINI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES, RECEIVED BY SHAH

LD071100Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Shaykh Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifah, the crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain, who has arrived in Teheran, was received in audience and had lunch with the shah at noon today. Prince 'Abdorreza was also present at the luncheon reception.

On his arrival in Teheran today, the Bahraini crown prince and defense minister said in a press statement: I am pleased to visit Iran at the invitation of Prince 'Abdorreza Pahlavi. During my visit to Iran we will hold talks with Iranian officials on developing relations between Iran and Bahrain. At my audience with the shah I will convey greetings from Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, to his brother the shah and to members of the imperial government.

Meets With Amuzegar

LD071830Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifah, crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain, met and held talks with Mr Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister, this afternoon. The people accompanying his highness the crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain were also present at this meeting.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BARBADOS--The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that the Imperial Iranian Government and the Government of Barbados have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level effective today. In this connection a statement was issued simultaneously by the two countries. The statement says: The Imperial Iranian Government and the Government of Barbados, in view of their interest in developing further understanding and strengthening friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level effective today. The exchange of ambassadors between the two countries will take place later. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN DACCA 8 MAR

BK080904Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kang Yang-uk, arrived in Dacca today on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh.

He was received at the airport by the Bangladesh vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar. Among others present at the airport were the presidential advisers, Dr M.N. Huda, Mr Azizul Huq, and Mr Abdul Momen Khan; diplomats; members of the Bangladesh-Korea Friendship Association; and a large number of Korean nationals in Dacca.

The DPRK vice president was presented a guard of honor. He reviewed the parade and took the salute. After the airport ceremony Mr Kang Yang-uk drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the state guest house where he is staying. The route between the airport and the state guest house was decorated with welcome arches and national flags of the two countries.

The distinguished visitor will lay wreaths at the national memorial for martyrs at Sabar this afternoon. During his stay he will visit the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute at Jaidevpur, the Adamjee jute mills and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The DPRK vice president, who is accompanied by a four-member delegation includes the minister for finance, the vice minister for foreign affairs, the DPRK ambassador in Bangladesh and the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, [sentence as heard]. Official talks between Bangladesh and the DPRK will be held tomorrow.

Mr Kang Yang-uk will call on President Zia tomorrow afternoon.

PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ENDS VISIT 7 MAR

BK071612Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The eight-member Chinese friendship delegation left Dacca this afternoon at the end of a weeklong good-will visit to Bangladesh.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, said the friendly relations between Bangladesh and China will be cemented further with their visit. He described the people of Bangladesh as good friends and good brothers.

Mr Wang, who is also the president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, said the people of Bangladesh have a glorious tradition of struggle and have never submitted to any foreign pressure. He said during their short visit they met different sections of people and were highly impressed by their hard work, particularly in the economic field.

INDIA

USSR, INDIA SIGN COOPERATION PROTOCOL IN DELHI

BK061623Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 6 (AFP)--The Soviet Union and India signed a protocol here today setting out the basis for continued bilateral economic and technical cooperation for the next 10 to 15 years.

The protocol was signed by Soviet Deputy Premier I.V. Arkhipov and Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the end of a week-long meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Mr. Arkhipov and Mr. Vajpayee are co-chairmen of the commission.

The protocol listed major areas of cooperation as steel, heavy machine building, oil exploration, production and refining, coal, non-ferrous metallurgy, communication and transport, cooperation in third countries, trade and science and technology.

Details of new projects would be worked out during the current year. But the two sides have agreed that they would include an alumina plant of about 600,000 tonnes per annum on the east coast on compensation basis and a blast furnace complex.

Official sources said the Soviet Union would provide technology and some equipment for the alumina plant in return for alumina exports from India. The exact quantity of alumina to be sent to the Soviet Union would be fixed later.

Two contracts were also signed here today between the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. and the Soviet organisation Tsvetmetpromexport, relating to evaluation of bauxite deposits and preparation of a detailed feasibility report for the project. Under the protocol the Soviet Union would also help India in oil exploration in the eastern state of Tripura.

INDIA, BANGLADESH REACH AGREEMENT ON 1977 TRADE

BK271701Y Delhi ISI in English 1533 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] India will buy from Bangladesh this year subject to price and quality being favourable, 10,000 tonnes of newsprint, 20,000 tonnes of naphtha, 40,000 tonnes of furnace oil, 15,000 tonnes of molasses and 20 tonnes of chloroquine diphosphate. This was agreed at the 3 day annual trade review between the two countries which concluded in New Delhi on February 25, reports SAMACHAR.

For its part, Bangladesh has agreed to import from India 300,000 tonnes of steam coal and another 75,000 tonnes of Assam coal. The Indian side indicated to the Bangladesh delegation its continued interest in exporting iron and steel, electrical and nonelectrical machinery and transport equipment besides miscellaneous items and it was agreed that the public sector organisations on both sides dealing with these items should take the initiative in establishing contacts with their counterparts immediately.

According to the agreed minutes signed at the conclusion of the talks, the two delegations have agreed to recommend to their respective governments that a trade review be conducted every 6 months instead of 1 year to facilitate expeditious movement of goods.

It was recognized that telecommunication links were vital for promoting commerce and the Indian side said that communications authorities in India have invited a Bangladesh team for talks in April-May this year.

To increase imports from Bangladesh to India, the Indian side agreed to a suggestion from that country's delegation to designate a focal point. It was also agreed that a transport coordination committee at the policy level should meet early to identify bottlenecks and suggest solutions. Both sides recognized that there was scope for further development and diversification of trade to mutual advantage. Keeping in view the objective of intra regional trade expansion, it was felt that there was a capability for further increase in the two-way trade.

IRANIAN AID OFFERED; CONCORDE FLIGHTS BANNED

BK031032Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Iran has offered to help India in carrying out the second stage of the Rajasthan Canal. Iran will make available additional crude oil supplies annually at OPEC prices on credit terms or lump sum payment. The rupee equivalent of these installments will be funded in India for investment or could be used to finance the approved projects including the second phase of the Rajasthan Canal. Replying to questions in the upper house of Parliament today, the external affairs minister said that India has accepted the offer. The details are to be worked out by the two governments.

Replying to another question Mr Vajpayee said India has decided not to permit Concorde overflights over Indian territory at supersonic speed. He said during his visit to India early this year, the British prime minister, Mr James Callaghan, had raised the question of permission for Concorde overflights. The prime minister had indicated to Mr Callaghan that the proposal will be considered. Mr Vajpayee said that the question has since been examined and the government, noting that several countries in Europe and elsewhere have withheld permission for such overflights on account of possible harm to people and property in densely inhabited areas, has decided not to permit Concorde overflights.

MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS TO TALK WITH CONGRESS-I GROUP

BK021352Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Congress parliamentary board has authorized the party leaders of Maharashtra to hold discussions with Congress-I to explore the possibilities of having a working arrangement for the formation of a government in Maharashtra. Speaking to newsmen after the meeting of the board in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr K.C. Pant, said that the working arrangement can be the formation of a government keeping separate identity of both the parties. Formation of a coalition government is also possible, he added.

In pursuance of the decision, Mr Vasant Rao Patil met the Congress-I president, Mrs Indira Gandhi, this afternoon. Mr V.P. Naik and the Maharashtra PCC [Pradesh State Congress Committee] president, Mr N.M. Tidke, were also present.

Agree To Unite

BK031637Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK

[Text] In Maharashtra, the Congress and the Congress-I have reached an agreement to jointly stake a claim to form the government in the state. The talks which had earlier broken down were revived later in the day with fresh initiatives by some leaders from both sides. The agreement between the two parties was made possible only after dropping conditions put forward by Mrs Gandhi that she should be the arbitrator in case of differences in the matter of policy and portfolios. She also dropped her demand that the agreement should be in writing.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Bhuta Singh, however, maintained that Mr Vasant Rao Patil has agreed to abide by Mrs Gandhi's leadership and refer all disputes to her for decision. According to the agreement, the chief minister will be from the Congress and there will be a deputy chief minister from the Congress-I. Both the parties will provide an equal number of ministers.

At separate meetings in Bombay the newly elected members of the Congress and the Congress-I elected Mr Vasant Rao Patil and Mr N.P. Tirpude as the leaders of their groups. Mr Patil and Mr Tirpude later called on the governor jointly and presented him a list of the members in support of their majority claim to form the government.

To Form Government

BK061600Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Mr Vasant Rao Patil, leader of the Congress legislature party in Maharashtra, has been invited by the governor, Mr Sadiq Ali, to form the government. A letter inviting Mr Patil to form the government was handed over to him by the governor at Rajbhavan in Bombay this evening. Mr Patil will be sworn in as chief minister tomorrow at 1100.

Mr M.K. Tirpude, leader of the Congress-I legislature party will be sworn in as deputy chief minister at the same time.

NEPAL

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT KANG SPEAKS AT BANQUET

BK051346Y Katmandu External Service in English 1510 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[DPRK Vice President Kang Yang-uk speech at 3 March banquet given in his honor by Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista--recorded--in Korean fading into English translation, concluding minute of speech was not translated]

[Text] Your Excellency; esteemed Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista; Excellencies and friends:

We are very happy to visit Nepal, a (?beautiful) country and to have an important meeting with Your Excellency, Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista, (?our intimate friend), and the Nepalese king. Allow me to express my profound thanks to you for having kindly received us today with warm sentiments of amity and for Your Excellency's very impressive and encouraging speech. [words indistinct].

I would like to take this opportunity to convey the most friendly greetings of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, of the Korean people to his majesty's government and people of Nepal. Korea and Nepal are far apart geographically, but their two peoples have warm, friendly relations and (?the same way) of waging the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for defending independence, and this active friendship will grow with each passing day. Our two peoples treasure very much this friendship.

The Nepalese people are resourceful and talented people who have defended their national independence against the imperialists and colonialists and are now endeavoring for the independent development of their country. Under the dynamic leadership of his esteemed majesty the king, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, the Nepalese people are now implementing with success the fifth 5-year plan for the country's independent development, surmounting all the bottlenecks and difficulties [words indistinct]. We highly appreciate the Nepalese people for the (?final) achievement made in the building of a new, prosperous and (?thriving) society and, in particular, fully support the proposal of his majesty the king to declare Nepal as a zone of peace. (?We are happy as our own) over the successes achieved by his majesty's government and the people of Nepal under the leadership of his majesty the king [words indistinct] safeguard national sovereignty and build a most (?fruitful) and prosperous society and in sincerely wishing greater successes in their future role.

Excellencies and friends, our people are now waging a common struggle, shoulder to shoulder with the people of new emerging countries, on the same road against imperialism and for independence. The Korean people, under the wise leadership of the great leader, Comrade President Kim Il-song, have converted a once-shattered country into a strong and powerful socialist industrial state with a [words indistinct] independent national economy in a short period of [words indistinct] revolution and construction. With a boundless (?honor) and happiness, of unchanging [words indistinct] great leader Comrade President Kim Il-song, our (?helmsman of the state), our people are now attaining fresh [words indistinct] of the second 7-year plan, the magnificient program of socialist economic construction put forward by him, which (?has the support) of the (?Korean people's) congress.

Today it is the supreme national desire of our people to reunify the divided fatherland peacefully (?at the earliest moment). The resolve of our people is not realized yet because of the presence in the southern part of our fatherland of an external force. [Words indistinct] to perpetuate the division of our country into a (?foreign) colony and actively (?building up) new aggressive war preparations against our republic. For the realization of the independence and peaceful reunification of Korea, above all, the foreign troops, the main obstacle, must be withdrawn from South Korea as soon as possible. The just struggle of our people for the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea and the realizationof the country's independence and peaceful reunification have enjoyed particular support and encouragement of the peace-loving people the world over. The Korean people [words indistinct] attempting to perpetuate Korea's division into two Koreas, and surely achieve the independence and peaceful reunification of their fatherland at all cost with the active support and encouragement of the peace-loving people of the world. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to his majesty's government and people for the assurance, for their sympathies and support given to our people in their just struggle for the independence and peaceful reunification of their fatherland.

Excellencies and friends, it is the irresistible trend of our time that the new emerging forces will be victorious and imperialism falls into decay and ruin. The Korean people will ceaselessly continue fighting with (?imperialism) as in the past, for the victory of the anti-imperialist (?forces) and firm unity with the people of the nonalined countries and all the peoples of the world who advocate independence and are offering active support and encouragement to the peoples of all countries against imperialism and colonialism. We are firmly convinced that the current visit to Nepal of our delegation will contribute to further strengthening and developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the peoples, stronger emphasis of their nonalined movement [phrase as received] and for hastening the common cause of the countries of the new emerging forces.

In conclusion, I would like to invite you to join me in a toast to the friendship and unity between the Korean people and the Nepalese people, to the long life and good health of his esteemed majesty the king, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva; to the long life and good health of Comrade Kim Il-song, respected and loved leader of our people; to the health of Your Excellency Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista and to the health of Your Excellencies and all present guests. [follows a minute passage of Kang Yang-uk speech in Korean]

Bista Speech

BK050756Y Katmandu External Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista speech at 3 March dinner in honor of the DPRK Vice President Kang Yang-uk--recorded]

[Text] Excellency, [words indistinct], distinguished guests. It is a great pleasure for us to welcome you and other distinguished members of your delegation at this dinner tonight. On behalf of the government and the people of Nepal and on my own behalf, I take this occasion of extending warm and hearty welcome to Your Excellency and the distinguished members of your entourage to the Kingdom of Nepal.

Although the official relations between our two countries are only a decade old and [words indistinct], but they have been marked by a spirit of friendship and cordiality. I am confident that Your Excellency's present visit will greatly contribute to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship existing between our two countries. We have followed with deep interest the great nationbuilding efforts made by the DPRK under the wise leadership of His Excellency President Kim Il-song. The achievements made by the DPRK by following (?his ideas) in rehabilitating the war-ravaged economy have earned the admiration of all. We sincerely wish you continuing successes in your efforts.

Since the establishment of normal diplomatic relations between our two countries, our relations have grown friendlier with each passing year. The exchange of visits, both at the official and other levels, has helped to foster better understanding between our two countries. In this connection we are happy to recollect Your Excellency's visit to Nepal on the auspicious occasion of our august sovereign's coronation in 1975. I myself had the pleasure of visiting your great country, and I was deeply impressed by the progress made by the DPRK.

Nepal is firmly committed to the principles and policy of nonalinement. We have constantly pursued the ideals of pancasila [five principles of peaceful coexistence] in the Bandung spirit. The continued validity of the nonalinement movement in today's world is proved by the fact that the number of countries attending the conferences of nonalinement have been steadily increasing. At the nonalined summit conferences, [words indistinct] in Colombo, His Majesty King Birendra personally led the delegation of the Kingdom of Nepal. These conferences were of distinct significance in the sense that they brought about a greater cohesion among the nonalined countries, an important international force.

Nepal as a small [words indistinct] maximum well-being of our people. Under the dynamic and enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Birendra, we are engaged in the noble task of national development. Our efforts are all directed toward achieving a balanced economic development of our country so that the fruits of development are shared by all. These efforts are already producing (?notable) results. It is our firm belief that peace and development, which represent the highest [words indistinct] of all mankind, are inseparable. In our quest for the fulfillment of these aspirations, we have (?stressed the need for efforts) to institutionalize peace. It has found expression in his majesty the king's proposal that Nepal be declared a zone of peace. We are (?glad) to express the deep gratification of his majesty's government for the support of the Government of the People's Republic of Korea for our zone of peace proposal.

We have already supported the peaceful reunification of Korea without interference of foreign powers [words indistinct]. We shall continue to respect and support the activities of the Korean people for the peaceful reunification.

[Words indistinct] problems of the Middle East. We are greatly concerned at the situation. We call for the permanent solution of the problem which must include, in our view, first, withdrawal of Israeli (?forces) to 1967 borders, second, determined and secured boundaries of all the concerned countries, and third, [words indistinct] homeland for the Palestinian people. We have admired the great initiative of President as-Sadat's Israel visit. We obviously hope that the step which he had taken will go a long way in bringing about an acceptable solution of the Middle East problem [words indistinct].

We as a nonalined country [words indistinct] rapid economic development as a crux of all problems. The present economic situation, which is characterized by growing disparity between the developed and developing nations, [words indistinct] about world today. It is imperative, therefore, that in the interest of justice, equality, equal progress for all mankind [words indistinct] of the conferences of the nonalined countries and the United Nations that the present system must be restructured in the favor of developing nations.

I [words indistinct] Your Excellency, to convey to the people and the Government of the DPRK, our sincere greetings, expression of profound friendship and best wishes for your continued progress and prosperity.

Distinguished guests: You are requested to join me in proposing a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency President Kim Il-song, to the health and happiness of his Excellency Vice President Kang Yang-uk, to the health and happiness of the distinguished members of the entourage and to the ever growing friendship between the DPRK and the Kingdom of Nepal!

INDIA, NEPAL INITIAL TREATIES ON TRANSIT, TRADE

BK0216Z1Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 2 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Two separate treaties on trade and transit and a protocol concerning them were initialed in Katmandu today between Nepal and India. Leaders of the delegations to the Nepal-India talks--Foreign Secretary Mr Uddav Deo Bhatta and Indian External Affairs Secretary Mr Jagat Mehta--initialed the documents on behalf of their respective governments at a function held at the Foreign Ministry today.

Similarly, an agreement on cooperation to control possible unauthorized trade between the two countries and a memorandum on the protocol to the transit treaty regarding procedures was finalized by the [words indistinct].

The transit treaty between the two countries will be valid for 7 years and the treaty on trade for 5. The agreement to control unauthorized trade will also be valid for 5 years.

The treaties will becomeeffective only from the date of the signing of the documents by the concerned ministers of the two countries.

The Indian delegation left for New Delhi today.

BANGLADESH ADVISER ON WATER RESOURCES ENDS VISIT

BK0516062 Kathmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh Presidential Adviser for Power, Water Resources and Flood Control Mr [illegible] left Katmandu today for home after a weeklong visit to Nepal. He was seen off at the Tribhuvan Airport by Minister of State for Water and Power Mr D. P. Adhikari [illegible] Minister for Water and Power Mr Shamsul Haque.

Prior to his departure he told newsmen at Tribhuvan Airport that his visit to Nepal had helped him to make a firsthand assessment of the tremendous water resources of Nepal, which could be developed for the benefit of all the countries of the region. Referring to his majesty the king's call for regional cooperation in harnessing water resources, he said we are moving toward the direction [words indistinct].

In the joint communique issued at the end of the visit, it was stated that Nepal and Bangladesh had reaffirmed their willingness to cooperate in schemes considered feasible on utilization of the vast water resources of the region. The two sides have also agreed to maintain close touch with each other in this respect by exchanging visits and holding frequent consultations. During the talks the two sides noted that water, [words indistinct] of Nepal, could be harnessed for hydropower, irrigation, flood modulation, navigation and other uses. The two sides also noted their mutual desire to adopt positive steps toward exploring the possibility in this regard as expressed by the two heads of state during his majesty the king's recent visit to Bangladesh.

PAKISTAN

G.G BRIEFS LEADERS ON AGRICULTURAL, OIL PRODUCTION

BK0514147Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The briefing of political leaders about the exploration and development of oil and gas and food and agriculture was held in Islamabad yesterday. The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, presided.

Later a government spokesman told newsmen that the political leaders were told that under its intensive search [program], the Oil and Gas Development Corporation would have the capacity to start drilling 17 wells during 1978-79. They were also informed that the oil potential of the country stood established from the fact that international financial institutions have shown interest in funding a search for oil in Pakistan [sentence as heard].

It was decided at the meeting to convene a top-level agricultural conference so as to discuss development of the agriculture sector. Talking to newsmen after the briefing, the adviser on agriculture, Dr Amir Mohammad Khan, said 16,000 tractors would be imported this year. He said there are plans to manufacture tractors within the country during the next plan period.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). Annual subscription including occasional supplements is, for the first volume, $125 paper/$100 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes $575 paper/$500 fiche. Foreign subscription for the first volume $160 paper/$125 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes for $610 paper/$525 fiche. Each additional paper or fiche subscription beyond eight is $50. The volumes are: I—People's Republic of China; II—Eastern Europe; III—Soviet Union; IV—Asia & Pacific; V—Middle East & North Africa; VI—Latin America; VII—Western Europe; VIII—Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

N T I S

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151

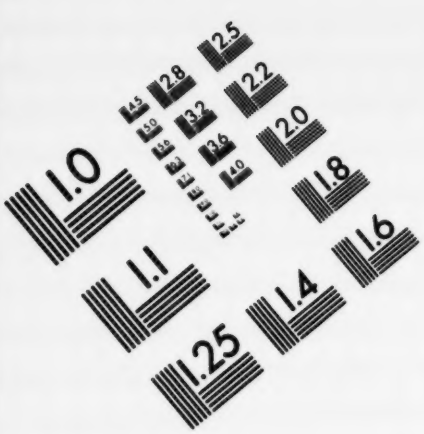
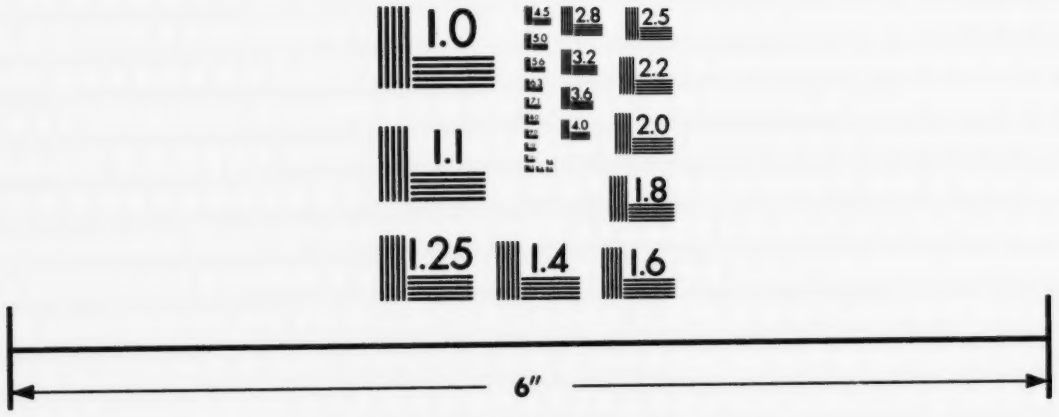
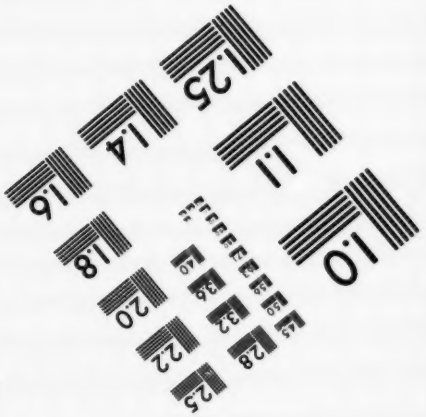


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)





Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503